# **Sermon Notes: Come Holy Spirit, 08.04.18**

**1.   Call to Prayer – ‘Thy Kingdom Come' for 3 things**

1. All Christians to find new life in their relationship to Jesus Christ. Grow in personal faith and discipleship. Joy in times of gladness and comfort in times of sorrow. Renew their passion for Jesus.
2. All those you meet and are close to – family, friends, colleges – that they might see something of Jesus Christ in you and are drawn towards Jesus and learn of his love.
3. For the church to be a place full of life and joy of Jesus Christ. To be a place that overflows with the reality of the presence of spirit of Jesus together and wherever it overflows to. In service, in love, in compassion, in working with poor

**2.   Country that prays?**

The Guardian view on prayer: the heart of a heartless world – January 18th 2018

What does pray mean in a Western world where the sacred and secular collide?

*‘The British pray, even if they think it won’t change anything’*

*'The habit of prayer has far outlasted the habit of churchgoing’*

**3.   Compare the Christian.com**

**We're often good at comparing one another but it is not helpful when it comes to prayer.**

      Super inadequate

      Super scared

      Super tied

      Super spiritual

**4.   Connecting to God**

Archbishop of Canterbury’s Lent Book, ‘Say It To God: In Search of Prayer’ by Luigi Gioia (Professor of Systematic Theology at the Pontifical University of Sant’Anselmo in Rome and Research Associate of the Von Hugel Institute (Cambridge).

If we’re honest, most of us would admit that prayer is not always easy, or enjoyable, and rarely comes naturally.

We struggle with distractions, anxious thoughts and commitments.

Question – *What does authentic prayer, a prayer that truly replies on the power of the resurrection look like?*

We should not be aware of our search for the best place, for the ideal conditions and for the perfect way to pray.

Dispelling some myths

      You don’t have to be in the right place

      You don’t have to wait for the idea conditions

      You don’t have to be a wise, learned Christian

      You don’t have to go on retreat

Prayer is always already there, already going on in our heart, wherever we are, whatever we do, whatever our feelings.

Says prayer – “Any scrap of wood is good to feed the fire”

Story of Vietnam Christian in time of persecution

**5.   Committed to pray “Come Holy Spirit”**

John 20:19-22

Acts 1:8

“Pray and read, read and pray; for a little from God is better than a great deal from men.” – John Bunyan

Spurgeon called his prayer meeting Boiler Rooms. He commented to other ministers “Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians.”

Let us as a community pray 'come Holy Spirit' and be open to the surprising ways that God may move and act among us.